

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 04096 170922Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /051 W

-----170924Z 035988 /23

O R 170900Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3941

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CALLS OFF HUNGER STRIKE

REF: SEOUL 4053

1. ONE OF KIM TAE-CHUNG'S SECRETARIES REPORTED TO EMBOFF THAT KIM ENDED HUNGER STRIKE MAY 10, THAT IS, BEFORE HE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN AND CARDINAL KIM. ACCORDING TO SECRETARY, KIM STATED THROUGH HIS LAWYER YI TAE-KTON THAT HE WAS ACCEDING TO REQUEST OF MRS. KIM AND GROUP OF SUPPORTERS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HER TO CHINJU. HE WARNED THAT HE MIGHT RESUME HUNGER STRIKE AT ANY TIME AND HE INVITED ALL THOSE FIGHTING FOR DEMOCRACY IN KOREA TO PERSEVERE IN THE STRUGGLE.

2. KIM'S SECRETARY SAID THAT KIM HAD STARTED EATING SOFT FOODS AND WAS EXPECTED TO REGAIN HIS STRENGTH WITHIN A WEEK OR TWO. KIM CONTINUES TO SUFFER FROM HIS SCIATICA AND BELIEVES HE MAY BE EXPERIENCING A SLOW PARALYSIS OF HIS LEG. HE WON NO (RPT NO) CONCESSIONS FROM HIS WARDERS DURING FAST AND COMPLAINED TO HIS LAWYERS THAT HE NOW HAD TWO ADDITIONAL COMPLAINTS: A) HE WAS NOW BEING OBSERVED TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY BY PRISON GUARDS; AND B) FOOD  
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PARCELS FROM FRIENDS WERE BEING BLOCKED (ONLY THOSE FROM MRS. KIM COME THROUGH).

3. KIM'S LAWYERS ARE PREPARING TWO MOTIONS FOR MINISTRY OF JUSTICE. ONE REQUESTS HIS TRANSFER TO SEOUL BECAUSE OF PENDING ELECTION LAW VIOLATION CASE THERE. THE OTHER DEMANDS HIS RELEASE FROM CONFINEMENT BECAUSE OF HIS DETERIORATED

PHYSICAL CONDITION. REPORTEDLY, LAWYERS ARE NOT HOPEFUL THAT EITHER REQUEST WILL BE GRANTED.

4. COMMENT: KIM'S STRIKE DID NOT MAKE GREAT IMPACT IN KOREA, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT HAVE IF IT HAD BEEN PROLONGED. OPPOSITION COLLEAGUES WHO PRESSED HIM TO DESIST WERE UNDOUBTEDLY MOTIVATED BY CONCERN OVER HIS HEALTH. THEY MAY ALSO HAVE FELT THAT A HUNGER STRIKE WAS TOO DRASTIC FOR THE LIMITED GOALS SET BY KIM, NAMELY AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS OF HIS IMPRISONMENT.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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